

BUPRESTIS

A semi-annual newsletter devoted to the dissemination of information about buprestids and students
of this group

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Dear friends,

First of all I want to wish you a Happy New Year, good health and peace for you and your family.
And – of course – always good luck in collecting beetles and brilliant ideas for the publications.

If there are some minutes left, ask yourself what your contribution was to make BUPRESTIS successful. This paper will be of minor interest only, if there are too many things (literature, research interests or current research activities) are missing. Therefore, please send me your news and let our colleagues share in your works, problems or results. I guess you are not writing a publication for yourself, so make it better known by our newsletter's literature service. But then I should get a copy of your paper or at least a message with the quotation. It is very time consuming for myself to pass through journals from Australia and Japan to South America to find out papers dealing with buprestids.

Please check your addresses in the mailing list. Moreover, if you will have an email contact meanwhile, let me know it.

The new deadline for the next issue of BUPRESTIS will be 15. June 2003.

Hans Mühle
Editor

A. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Chuck BELLAMY sent the following letter:

Colleagues:

Following my presentation in 1995 about the world catalogue plans, our editor Hans MÜHLE convinced me that it would be helpful to add information about the location of types of the many species throughout collections in the world. I have been trying to accomplish this ever since, but there are problems.

1. Only a very few collections have published lists of their type holdings, either in journals or on the internet, so many collections and their holdings are available only when a visit is made.

2. Some authors worked with a variety of specimens acquired by donation, exchange, personal collecting, etc., but that doesn't mean that all of the types of species they described are all in the same collection or museum. We know that most of OBENBERGER's types are in Prague, but others were returned to the collections that sent the specimens for his study. Some have not yet been located and cannot be listed.

3. Many of you, especially in Europe, travel to museums and university collections and may be interested to make a contribution by creating lists of types you encounter. For instance, with the resolution of the FREY collection debate between Basel and Munich, it would be very helpful to have a list of buprestid types of HOSCHEK, THÉRY, etc. held in the FREY collection. I am informed by the collection manager, Mrs. SPRECHER, that it will be many years before all of this information is available.

4. I realize that it will be many years, if ever, before a list of the types held in London, or Paris, or Berlin, or even Prague will be available, but for anyone who might have the opportunity to visit any of the large collections, I would greatly appreciate any information that you might be able to send.

5. The most recent version of the ICZN (1999) also changed the rules and recommendations about lectotypes, so now we are again allowed to maintain types series of syntypes. Thus it will be more difficult to provide a note about the location of primary types, but I will do what I can.

6. If anyone wishes to make a contribution, I would simply like to know the name of the taxon and any type registration number that might be associated with the type specimen. I prefer to know if the specimen is a holotype, lectotype or neotype, if possible.

7. Some of this information can be found searching through the many publications, such as when a note or description indicates not only the deposition of the type, but also any registration number too.

Finally, I have asked several times before, but the only way I can be certain of including the widest amount of information will be because I have received as many of the new and recent reprints as possible. If you publish a paper and have reprints to circulate, I would be very happy to receive a copy. If you can send even the full citation, e.g. author(s), date, title, journal (in full please), volume (number): pages of the paper and the names and pages for any new taxa, then that will be very helpful.

Thank you all in advance, as I original indicated, this catalogue is for all to use and only by a concerted effort of collaboration will it be so.

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Ted MACRAE wrote the following lines: I am revising the genus *Taphrocerus* Solier in North America and would be interested in borrowing any such specimens.

Thanks, Ted

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B. SPECIES WANTED FOR RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE

C. REQUESTS FOR LITERATURE

D. FORUM

The Buprestidae of Mexico

A RETURN TO MEXICO IN 2 0 0 4

For those who remember the grand multinational trip to Mexico in 1992, Rick WESTCOTT and Chuck BELLAMY think that it might be nice to try again twelve years later. Our Mexican colleagues at the Colegio de Postgraduados in Montecillo, ca. 30 km E of Mexico City, have suggested that we could hold a formal symposium on their campus prior to us heading off to a field trip. We can begin to make formal plans providing we have a sufficient number of interested replies. Depending upon your interests, we could organize either one, two or more days of formal sessions. Air travel via the Benito Juarez International Airport in Mexico City is the most convenient arrival and departure port. Rental cars from the airport will be the best option for ground travel. We can make suggestions about accomodation, food, travel, etc. from our experiences over the years.

Feel free to contact either Rick or Chuck, via email and by post.

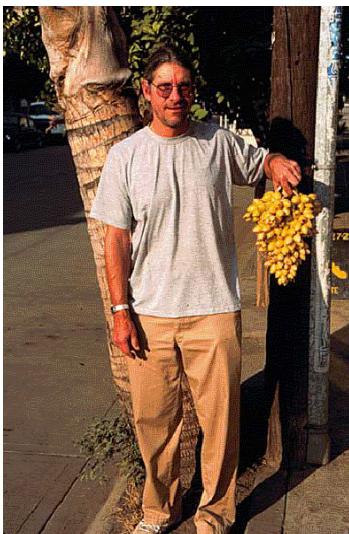
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Adventures in Jalisco, Mexico

by Rick WESTCOTT & Alan MUDGE

On November 26, 2001, we flew to Puerto Vallarta, rented a VW "Beetle" (called a bocho in Mexico), and headed to a hotel familiar to us from our trip in 1999. We knew that the time of year was not optimum for chasing beetles and that Jalisco State was experiencing a severe drought. Nevertheless, we needed some warmth and sunshine; and we held out some hope for success on the entomological front. Next day we drove 160 kms south to the Chamela biological research station, where we spent the night, on the way taking a detour via farm roads because a tree had just fallen across the highway-in perfectly calm, clear weather! On the 28th we followed our friends Felipe and Alicia-with their son, Felipe-from the station to El Grullo, where we stayed at the home of Alicia's mother. There is in El Grullo a sugar cane factory, and we found the trucks piled high with raw cane

to be a curious sight. So too was a giant katydid which we found there. Alicia's mother owns a small orchard right in town, and there we were shown a fruit of which we had never heard: it is called gumara and comes from a plant related to the pineapple.



We collected a field with Felipe in a VW bus belonging to Chamela. As expected, the collecting was mostly poor because of dryness. For example, we visited a cloud forest preserve at 6500' where they had had no rain since October 15! There we experienced our coolest temperature, 9° C – the warmest was 32° C near the coast. The forest still was green and there were many flowers; however, the only beetle we collected in numbers was a geotrupine scarab we found in burro dung on the grounds of the research station, a rustic spot with wooden dorms, dining facility ... and outhouses. At most other localities in Jalisco, at lower elevations, there was already a fire danger not normally seen until April or May.

Alan was on a mission to employ his banana-beer bait traps, which he hauled up into oak trees by means of our tropics net (that's the only use we got out of it!), in search of a rare diurnal scarab. Rick would have bet on failure, but would have lost. Alan caught six of the critters, and that made his trip. Interestingly, Rick's best buprestid collecting came from the same place, including a new record for the state. The rarest "bug" of the trip was a species of Cerambycidae that Rick collected at the same locality. This family is Felipe's specialty, and he said he knew of only three other specimens in collections! Well, Rick gave his specimen to Felipe, which was a small price to pay for all he and Alicia (and her mother!) did for us on this trip - putting up with two gringos for five days. We surely enjoyed the home cooking. So too did we appreciate the delicious sweet tamales from a local street vendor. "Noche Buena", a special dark holiday beer, was good too!

We visited Nevado de Colima national park, driving to an elevation of over 3350 meters. It was beautiful there, and not dry ... but the beetle collecting was awful! Rick saw only one buprestid, *Chrysobothris inaequalis*, but it was too quick! Nevertheless, we were thankful for the opportunity to see the park and vistas new to us. From our vantage point, heading towards 4270-meter Nevado de Colima, our view of the nearby Volcano de Colima was blocked. However, from below we were fortunate to see it fuming.

Speaking of fumes: we were almost overcome by them due to a gas leak on our bocho; then, on our return to Puerto Vallarta, neither we or several folks at gas stations could remove the locking gas cap. We ended up coasting most of the last 25 miles into town, surely arriving on vapours. However, the attendant at the first station in town immediately wrenched off the cap! When we asked his secret, he simply flexed his muscles. Next time we won't be so delicate.

A highlight of the trip for Rick was in Puerto Vallarta, finding the perfect Christmas gift for his wife, Kathy: a Huichol Indian beaded dolphin. Their artwork is superb! Kathy liked it so much she purchased another, larger dolphin via the Internet.

The post-911 airport security was most definitely not a highlight of the trip. PDX was no problem; however, at Puerto Vallarta on the return, our checked and carry-on baggage was searched thoroughly by hand (twice for Rick's carry-on). However, it was all very efficient and the people were courteous, and the airports were not crowded. However, connecting at Phoenix was quite another story, where we had two checked bags "flagged" (though they were not searched), and then Rick finally came unglued when a rather sour woman with America West apparently did not like his 10-day beard. Let's let it go at that! If you want the details (and you probably don't), ask Rick.



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